

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended):

An automatic outrigger securing assembly, for use on a fishing boat having structural support members and an outrigger, said outrigger securing assembly comprising:

coupling means for releasably securing said outrigger in a fixed position

about said boat;

collar means for interfacing with said coupling means; said collar means including

means for attachment to an outrigger, and interlocking means for insertion into

said coupling means;

said means for attachment comprising a cylindrical sleeve, and said interlocking means

comprises a pair of generally parallel flanges, said flanges protruding from said sleeve

and integrally associated therewith, said interlocking means further including pin

means interposed said flanges, and mounted thereto;

said coupling means receiving and locking said collar means;

said coupling means further including means for releasing said collar means;

whereby, when said outrigger is in a laydown or collapsed configuration, in

close proximity to said boat, said securing assembly automatically

receives and safely retains said outrigger in a desired position.

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Claim 2. (Original)

The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said coupling means includes a support arm and a head mounted about one end of said arm;

said head further including upper and lower complementary jaws, at least one of said jaws being moveable, and means for biasing said jaws in a closed position.

Claim 3. (Original):

The apparatus of claim 2, wherein at least one of said jaws includes recessed channel means for retaining said collar means.

Delete Claim 4, without prejudice to the Applicant.

Delete Claim 5 without prejudice to the Applicant.

Claim 6. (Allowed – Previously Amended):

An automatic outrigger securing assembly, for use on a fishing boat having structural support members and an outrigger, said outrigger securing assembly comprising:

a coupler releasably securing said outrigger in a fixed position

about said boat, said coupler including a support arm having two ends, one said end mounted on a support member of said boat, the opposite end having a head mounted thereon;

said head including upper and lower complementary jaws, at least one of said jaws being moveable, and means for biasing said jaws in a closed position;

a collar for interfacing with said coupler, said collar comprises a

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cylindrical sleeve for attachment to said outrigger;  
an interlocking pin assembly comprising a pair of generally parallel flanges, said  
flanges protruding from said sleeve and integrally associated therewith;  
a pin interposed said flanges, and secured thereto, said jaws receiving and locking said  
pin;  
said head further including means for releasing said pin;  
whereby, when said outrigger is in a laydown or collapsed configuration, in  
close proximity to said boat, said securing assembly automatically  
receives, releasably locks, and safely retains said outrigger until such  
time that release is desired.